



03560.002983

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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In re Application of:

HIROSHI ECHIZEN ET AL.

Application No.: 10/050,787

Filed: January 18, 2002

For: SPUTTERING METHOD AND
SPUTTERING APPARATUS

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Examiner: Steven H. Versteeg
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Group Art Unit: 1753
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December 11, 2003

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

SUBMISSION

Sir:

a) Introductory Comments:

In response to the final Office Action dated September 11, 2003, Applicants respectfully request entry of the following amendments and comments into the file of the above-identified application.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on

December 11, 2003
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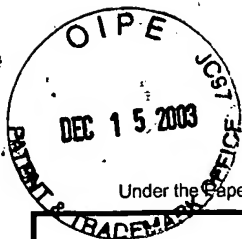
PETER SAXON (24947)

(Name of Attorney for Applicant)

Peter Saxon

Signature

December 11, 2003
Date of Signature



PTO/SB/30 (08-00)

Approved for use through 10/31/2002. OMB 0651-0031
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE) TRANSMITTAL

Subsection (b) of 35 U.S.C. § 132, effective on May 29, 2000,
provides for continued examination of an utility or plant application
filed on or after June 8, 1995.

See The American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA).

Application Number

10/050,787

Filing Date

January 18, 2002

First Named Inventor

HIROSHI ECHIZEN

Group Art Unit

1753

Examiner Name

Steven H. Versteeg

Attorney Docket Number

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This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 of the above-identified application.

NOTE: 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 is effective on May 29, 2000. If the above-identified application was filed prior to May 29, 2000, applicant may wish to consider filing a continued prosecution application (CPA) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(d) (PTO/SB/29) instead of a RCE to be eligible for the patent term adjustment provisions of the AIPA. See Changes to Application Examination and Provisional Application Practice, Final Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 50092 (Aug. 16, 2000); Interim Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 14865 (Mar. 20, 2000), 1233 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 47 (Apr. 11, 2000), which established RCE practice.

1. Submission required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114

a. ☐ Previously submitted

- i. ☐ Consider the amendment(s)/reply under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 previously filed on _____
(Any unentered amendment(s) referred to above will be entered).
- ii. ☐ Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on _____
- iii. ☐ Other _____

b. ☒ Enclosed

12/17/2003 NDANTE1 00000032 10050787

- i. ☒ Amendment/Reply
- ii. ☐ Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s)
- iii. ☐ Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)
- iv. ☐ Other _____

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2. Miscellaneous

- a. ☐ Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 C.F.R. § 1.103(c) for a period of _____ months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(i) required)
- b. ☐ Other _____

3. Fees

The RCE fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e) is required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 when the RCE is filed.

a. ☒ The Director is hereby authorized to charge any deficiencies in the following fees, or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. 06-1205

- i. ☒ RCE fee required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e)
- ii. ☐ Extension of time fee (37 C.F.R. §§ 1.136 and 1.17)
- iii. ☐ Other _____

b. ☒ Check in the amount of \$ 770.00 is enclosed

c. ☐ Payment by credit card (Form PTO-2038 enclosed)

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED

Name (Print/Type)	PETER SAXON	Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)	24947
Signature	<i>Peter Saxon</i>	Date	December 11, 2003

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION

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Name (Print/Type)	PETER SAXON	Reg. No. 24947
Signature	<i>Peter Saxon</i>	Date December 11, 2003

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 0.2 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, Director of the U.S.P.T.O., P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND Fees and Completed Forms to the following address: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.